

Broadview-Bitter Lake-Haller Lake Neighborhood Advisory Committee (NAC)

Bitter Lake Community Center

January 12, 2011

(6:30 – 8:30 PM)

MEETING SUMMARY

ATTENDEES

NAC MEMBERS:

Dan Stern, Edmond Ryan, Fran Clifton, Gloria Butts, Greg Brotherton, Jeff Vander Giessen, Joseph Monda, Josh Freedman, Richard Dyksterhuis, Rick Barrett, and Susan Eastman Jensen, Wayne Parks.

PUBLIC MEMBERS:

CITY STAFF:

Nora Liu (DPD), Pamela Banks (DON), Sebhat Tenna (DON), David Goldberg (DPD), Susanne Rockwell, (Parks)

GOAL OF MEETING:

Get presentation from and hold discussions with City departments (Parks and Recreation) and use the information to help structure BBH neighborhood planning update process. City staff will describe neighborhood plan update process in more detail.

COMMUNITY REPORT OUT

- Susan Jensen provided a presentation on 'Urban Hamlets' supported by a map showing the plan update area. The concept centers around having small neighborhood commercial areas more widely distributed so that people have a convenient place to pick up basics. There was discussion around zoning of area.
 - She would like to see more parks, walkable areas. There are very few services available. The idea is for smaller business developments/offices with residential units above, not large projects.
 - These projects might fit into low density, multi-family/commercial zones.
 - NAC members appreciated the information and related that they would like to see small businesses encouraged to locate in the area.
 - When asked if they felt they would be successful in rezoning single family to allow for more small business, NAC members suggested perhaps a plan overlay would work. Walkability, coffee shops, and public art would help community accept this change. Parking is also an issue.

City staff suggested spending some time at next month's meeting looking at this issue. NAC members will create an updated map to bring to the next meeting.

SUMMARY OF DECEMBER MEETING

- Can the NAC information be shared with neighborhood websites and blogs?

Information on the web site is all public. Once notes have been approved by NAC and uploaded to the NAC website, they can be linked to or blogged.

- NAC members reported that the phone number given out by SPU at the last meeting regarding flood reporting was incorrect.

City staff will follow up with SPU and update NAC members. [See response in footnote below¹].

- NAC members stated they would like to get notes back for review as early as possible.
- There was discussion about SPU's comments about "natural drainage systems impact sidewalk development."

City staff will follow up with SPU and update NAC members. [See response on footnote of page 2 on Summary Notes from 12-08-2010].

- There was a discussion about Bitter Lake water quality comment in the notes. It should read "Who is responsible for drinking water quality". [See updated Summary Notes from 12-08-2010].

Meeting notes were approved with the above stipulations. Once there is clarification around SPU issues, notes will be updated and posted online.

SEATTLE PARKS & RECREATION (by Susanne Rockwell)

- A hand-out relating to the 2008 Parks and Green Spaces Levy was distributed. The levy contains money for green spaces, development and acquisition of new parks, community initiated projects and P-patches.
- \$15 million was designated in the Opportunity Fund, where the community can nominate projects. First round was for \$7 million. There were 100 applications, which resulted in 13 projects. Bitter Lake received \$287,000.

¹ I solved this mystery in discussion with a NAC member on the walk Saturday. The 386-1800 number did work, it's just that they referred some of the calls to another number, either Holly McCracken or Scott Stephens for spot drainage (something with a small, relatively cheap fix). They were thinking this meant they should have called that number in the first place (that 386-1800 was the wrong number to call) but I assured them it's important to call 386-1800 first so the call is logged and we keep track of the issue, and so we can determine if it really is a spot drainage issue or not. They thought the referral number would be better to call directly if that got the problem fixed and called 386-1800 in the past hadn't resulted in a fix. They need to be reassured that 386-1800 is definitely the best number to call first, to ensure their problem is tracked by the key people and doesn't fall through the cracks.

- New winter brochure, showing Parks programs for the NW area of the city was distributed. Current city-wide map showing all of Parks resources is being revised and will be printed soon for distribution.
- Parks uses a map portraying Parks in the plan area to formulate a GAP analysis for the area. Once new census data becomes available, this information will be updated.
- NAC member stated that Haller Lake Plan area extends to 15th Ave NE and includes Jackson Park.
- There is a lack of open space in the plan area. School District property is under discussion for acquisition. Parks currently has no additional acquisition money for the area, unless the school property falls through. Parks would still welcome suggestions/ideas around open space.
- NAC member pointed out a site on the map that might be utilized, which now belongs to Fleets and Facilities and is leased to SPU. Would like to see this developed as a park.
- NAC member stated that some of the Carkeek Park area shown on the map is not really usable for biking, walking etc. Many of the parks in the area are not easily accessible to older community members, or those dependent on public transportation. There is no bus that goes into Carkeek Park.
- NAC members would like to see amount of money going into the parks on the map, so it can be compared across the city.
- There are some parcels of land that are owned by other city departments, such as fleets and facilities. The Bitter Lake Reservoir is owned by Seattle Public Utilities. A new P-Patch will be going in this area, along with a children's play area. The community was hoping to put in basketball courts and a skate dot in addition to the play area, but SPU needs the area for a new pump facility.
- Parks is working with SDOT on the creation of Park Boulevards that utilize right-of-way for open space in other parts of the city.

Q. Is there a long-term plan to cover the reservoir?

A. There is currently a soft lid on the reservoir and a hard lid is under consideration for the future.

In response to NAC members' request for clarification around 'parks', 'open space', etc., on maps and surveys, Susanne stated she would send clarifying definitions of these terms. Please see Attachment A and the end of this document.

WHAT, WHEN, WHO AND HOW OF NEIGHBORHOOD PLANNING UPDATE (NPU), by City staff

- Overview of the NPU process was provided: the NACs role in the process, who will be involved, how NAC moves recommendations forward. Explanation of how community will be involved in the process, how agenda will be moved forward.
- Project Management Plan document provides key information related to the NPU project: what neighborhood plan updates are, what the timeline is, where to find information about it, and how the NAC engages the larger community. Goal is to engage large number of community members early on, as well as reaching underrepresented communities. The City has policies around public engagement.

- Phases of the plan: first phase is initial organization, what has been accomplished, establishing scope and priorities for the update; second phase is the initial response to the information in the earlier phase. An example could be adding police officers, increasing street lighting, etc. Third phase is discussion around proposed responses/strategies; at this point an action plan is designed. Final phase is listing out priorities and presenting to City Council.
- Planning Outreach Liaisons (POLs) — they will reach out to and engage four historically underrepresented groups in the Broadview - Bitter Lake – Haller Lake area: Spanish speaking communities, renters, youth, and seniors and people living with disabilities.
- POLs will hold small group meetings at apartment buildings, senior housing facilities, etc., transcribe comments and provide to DPD. NAC will review input from underrepresented populations and give feedback.
- NAC is expected to advise the City on how to engage the larger community. City will begin outreach based on this input, as well as use of POLs for outreach to underrepresented populations. City will then bring feedback to NAC for review of prioritization and discussion around creating strategies.
- Outreach will be provided to stakeholders through mailings, blogs, etc. for them to attend the public forum.
- For anyone who cannot attend meetings, on-line surveys will also be available for input.
- POLs and underrepresented community members will be invited to attend the large forums. Generally, there will not be separate meetings held by POLs after phase two; all will be invited to participate at the community forums.
- NAC member stated it would be good to prepare press releases to give to newsletter editors as early as possible.

NAC members are asked to send the information regarding newsletter deadlines to Sebhat.

- NAC member stated they would like to participate in Neighbor Appreciation Day events on February 12. It would be an excellent opportunity to get the word out on the community forum.
- A draft copy of the community forum agenda was distributed. The proposed agenda includes having a NAC hosted open house at the end of the meeting to allow more interaction/socializing with community.
- Refreshment and childcare service will be provided at each community forum.

NAC agreed to move forward with this agenda, but would like to have a bit more detail.

COMMENTS:

- Tabling might keep groups from close neighborhoods together. However, it could also be looked at as an opportunity to meet neighbors who are not as close. It would be good to have both types of tabling.
- Hub urban village was the main focus of the forum. We should be sure that people are aware of that before the forum.
- It might also be good to have a slide show of the area.

- First ½ hour of the forum is very important. Don't want a lot of wonk talk. It might be good to start off with community member visions for the plan area.

Further discussion of the forum agenda and the NAC hosted open house will be added to the next meeting agenda.

NAC members are asked to let Sebhat know if he/she would like to speak briefly at the forum, or if they know someone else who would.

- It would be good to have underrepresented members speak briefly as well.
- Facilitators should not be invested in the material/outcomes. Could possibly have outside facilitators.
- NAC members will also be assigned to various tables and can serve as sounding board to city staff and ensure we are getting information correctly.

WALKING TOUR

- The tour was scheduled for Saturday morning from 10 to 12, but was updated when most NAC members preferred a 1-3 p.m. tour time.
- Suggestion was made that a follow-up van tour can taken after the community forum to include community members.

Richard and Sue volunteered to work on the route and map. Details to be ironed out via e-mail.

NEXT MEETING

- NAC members are asked to look at Appendix 2 of the *"Broadview / Bitter Lake / Haller Lake NEIGHBORHOOD PLAN UPDATE DRAFT PROJECT MANAGEMENT PLAN 2010"* document and provide suggestions for the next meeting on how to do outreach and engagement.
- NAC members are also asked come up with proposals for future NAC meeting agendas. David will send out an e-mail with further details.
- NAC members will look at draft questions and other items related to March's community forum at next meeting.
- NAC members suggested discussing the urban hamlet idea at next meeting as well.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No comments were made

NEXT STEPS

NAC members may email Sebhat to volunteer to do report back on walking tour at next meeting.

REVIEW OF OPEN SPACE DEFINITIONS, GOALS AND CRITERIA

Before analyzing open space deficiencies, it is important to understand the City's open space definitions, goals and criteria.

OPEN SPACE DEFINITIONS

The following definitions are taken from *Seattle's Parks and Recreation Plan 2000* and the City of Seattle's 2005 *Comprehensive Plan* update.

Breathing Room Open Space

Definition: Combined acreage of all dedicated open spaces (parks, greenspaces, trails, and boulevards,) but not including tidelands and shorelands (submerged park lands.)

Offsets: School grounds, green streets, boulevard, trail, etc.

Usable Open Space

Definition: Relatively level and open, easily accessible, primarily green open space available for drop-in use (can be part of larger citywide park space). Urban Village Open Space can be considered a type of Usable Open Space, and is defined in the City's Comprehensive Plan as "Publicly owned or dedicated open space that is easily accessible and intended to serve the immediate urban village. This encompasses various types of open space for passive enjoyment as well as activity and includes green areas and hard-surfaced urban plazas, street parks, and pocket parks. Dedicated open spaces should be at least 10,000 square feet in size."

Offsets: School grounds, recreation facilities, green streets, boulevards and trails.

Greenspaces (Greenbelts and Natural Areas)

Definition: Areas designated for preservation because of their natural or ecological qualities and their potential to contribute to an interconnected open space system.

Desirable: Preserve such areas where they meet the designation criteria established in the Greenspaces Policies. Greenspaces are counted as breathing room, but such areas should be preserved regardless of relationship to distribution guidelines and existing amounts of open space.

Offsets

Seattle's Parks and Recreation Plan 2000 refers to offsets such as school grounds, recreation facilities, green streets, boulevards and trails in conjunction with the definitions of Breathing Room and Usable Open Space. Offsets, in this context, are meant as open spaces that may not be owned by Seattle Parks and Recreation that are still used or experienced similarly to City operated parks and greenspaces. While offsets are not considered as Breathing Room or Usable Open Space, they can provide open space for passive or active recreation or enjoyment and sometimes fill gaps in Breathing Room and Usable Open Space for residents who use the playground at their local school, stroll along a tree-lined boulevard or exercise indoors at a community center.